



Pool Drain Covers May Be Due To Expire

One of the primary purposes of the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act (VGB and/or P&SS Act, 15 U.S.C. 8001 et seq.) is to prevent serious injury or death caused by drain entrapment. Drain cover manufacturers are required to provide the consumer with information that tells them when the drain cover must be replaced before they begin to crack or show other signs of failure. Many manufacturers have designated a life span of 5 years. Others have designated longer or shorter periods. Since numerous fittings were installed in 2008 and early 2009, many have or are about to reach the end of their stated life expectancy and need to be replaced soon.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The *P&SS Act* mandated the following changes in federal pool and spa regulations for public pools and spa:

- All pool drain covers manufactured, distributed or entered into commerce on or after Dec. 19, 2008, must meet the ASME/ANSI A112.19.8 standard.
- All public pools and spas must be equipped with new ASME/ANSI A112.19.8 compliant drain covers.
- Pools and spas operating off of a single main drain (other than an unblockable drain) must also add one or more of the following options*:
 - A safety vacuum release system (SVRS)
 - A suction-limiting vent system
 - A gravity drainage system
 - An automatic pump shut-off system
 - A disabled drain
 - Any other system determined by the Commission to be equally effective as, or better than, the others listed above.

*A pool may have more than one single main drain. If a pool has dual or multiple main drains more than 3 feet apart, it may be exempt from this final requirement. Pools and spas with single main drains that are unblockable are also exempt from this requirement.

WHAT IS THE PROPER MARKING ON APPROVED DRAIN COVERS?

There is no requirement in the VGB Act for markings but the CPSC has asked manufacturers to mark them "VGB 2008". Covers are to display (per ASME standard):

- Use – single or multiple
- Flow rate GPM
- "Life" (number of years)
- Wall and/or floor mount
- Manufacturer's name
- Model number

Since November 12, 2008, newly made drain covers should have the "VGB 2008" marking. The drain cover manufacturer should provide a certification document with each drain cover stating that it complies with the requirements of the VGB Act. If there is no mark or you are otherwise in doubt, contact the manufacturer and ask for a copy of the certificate. Also keep a record of where and when you purchased the cover.



**KCMO HEALTH DEPARTMENT
ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAM**

2400 TROOST AVE, SUITE 3200
KANSAS CITY, MO 64108
Phone: (816) 513-6315 Fax: (816) 513-6290



Public Health

HOW DO I FIND OUT WHEN MY DRAIN COVER EXPIRES?

VGB requires drain expiration information to be stamped on the top of each outlet cover and provided in the product literature. As you look at the top of the outlet cover you will see "Life: __ Years" stamped just below the design flow rating. You can also find this information in the product literature that came with each cover that says, "Replace within __ installed years." This tells you when each cover must be replaced after the original installation date.

IS IT REALLY IMPORTANT TO REPLACE MY COVERS ON TIME?

YES! Properly-fitted, secured and maintained drain covers are an extremely important means of protecting your pool users from very serious injury or death due to entrapment while using the facility. All outlet covers degrade over time from the effects of UV light, pool chemicals, etc... If a drain cover breaks or is not properly secured, the pool users are in imminent danger of serious injury. You can avoid this hazard by replacing your outlet covers on time.

WHAT IF IT'S TIME TO REPLACE MY EXISTING OUTLET COVERS?

Be sure to consult with the manufacturer of the existing outlet covers or a commercial pool company to find replacements for the originals. You will also need to make sure your records have been updated with the most current information. A verification form checklist to help you organize this information can be found at www.kcmo.gov/health

WILL KCHD BE CHECKING THE MAIN DRAINS IN MY POOL, SPA OR WADING POOL TO SEE IF THE OUTLET COVERS ARE EXPIRED?

Generally, the answer is no. The owner of the pool facility is primarily responsible for making sure the pool, spa or wading pool is in compliance with both state and federal law. This includes the federal VGB Act. However, KCHD will be verifying that each pool is in compliance with VGB drain cover requirements by reviewing Certificates of Compliance or other associated records such as a statement from the manufacturer, or installation record from a certified installer.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & RESOURCES

www.poolsafely.gov

http://www.nspf.org/en/resources/spa_safety/vgbact.aspx

<http://apsp.org/safety/pool-spa-safety.aspx>